



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350

8 pages

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 8550.16C
OP-374

4 MAR 1985

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 8550.16C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: IN-WATER RELIABILITY EVALUATIONS OF UNDERWATER MINES

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 4855.1, Subj: Quality Assurance Program
(NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Procedure for Requesting Fleet Support Services
(2) Test Plan Format

1. Purpose. To evaluate the reliability of in-service mines. (R)

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 8550.16B and report control symbol
OPNAV 8550-5.

3. Policy. The Navy must assure that all weapon systems are
reliable and effective when used in their assigned missions. (R)
This instruction implements the guidance in reference (a) with
regard to in-service mines by directing that in-water reliability
evaluations (IRE) be carried out as part of the established
Quality Evaluation Program.

4. Background. In-water reliability evaluations will be (R)
conducted using tactical mines (less explosives) appropriately
instrumented to evaluate their operational performance. Information
gained from the IRE which is one segment of the overall
Quality Evaluation Program, should be used to update reliability
assessments and thereby improve deployment planning. Mines evaluated
must be representative of the fleet inventory, and to the maximum
extent feasible, fleet services should be used to conduct the evaluations.

5. Action

a. CINCLANTFLT and CINCPACFLT will: (R)

(1) Authorize fleet service mines to be tested independently or in conjunction with other mining exercises.

(2) Provide fleet service support for IRE's.

(3) Coordinate the participation by Numbered Fleet Commander and COMINELARCOM units during an IRE.

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R) b. COMINEWARCOM will:

(1) Develop a priority list and update it annually for mines to be evaluated during the next three years. The list should be submitted to COMNAVSEASYSKOM by 31 December of each year.

(2) Ensure that planned quantities of mines to be evaluated during an IRE are available.

(3) Coordinate fleet support services with the range activities and assist in the scheduled IRE's.

(4) Recommend mission profiles which will be compatible with planned delivery vehicles.

(5) Incorporate reliability indices into the Mine Warfare Readiness Assessment and minefield planning standards.

R) c. CHNAVMAI (COMNAVSEASYSKOM) will:

(1) By 1 April each year, submit to CNO (OP-03) and COMINEWARCOM a plan outlining service mine systems to be tested through IRE. The plan will cover the next three fiscal years.

A) (2) Using the format in enclosure (1), submit a request for fleet support services for each upcoming test at least five months before the quarter in which testing is scheduled. The request should be submitted via COMINEWARCOM to the appropriate FLTCINC for approval. Information copies of the requests should be sent to CNO (OP-03 and OP-095), the cognizant type commander and the ranges concerned.

(3) Provide material and technical personnel to assist in weapons assembly, instrumentation, location, ranging, recovery and post-recovery analysis.

A) (4) Using the format in enclosure (2), issue a detailed Test Plan for each specific test at least three months prior to test start. This Test Plan should be based on known fleet support services available. Copies will be provided to all participants.

(5) Coordinate with COMINEWARCOM to resolve all interface and compatibility problems between mine systems to be tested and their delivery systems.

(6) Conduct an in-depth analysis of mines and components found to be defective to establish cause of failure. If appropriate, provide CNO with a plan for correcting the deficiencies.

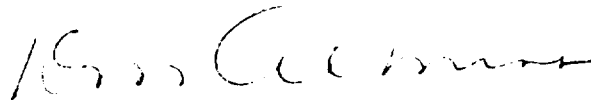
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(7) Promulgate reports documenting results of the IRE tests and incorporate the data into annual mine system reliability reports.

(8) Incorporate new mine systems into IRE schedules as they enter the fleet inventory.

6. Liaison. Direct liaison among all participants is authorized to conduct this program.

7. Reports. Reports required by this directive are exempt from reports control procedures by OPNAVINST 5214.7. (R)



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PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING SUPPORT SERVICES

(A)

1. IRE Exercise Identification. Test identification number assigned, and identification of Mk-Mod mine weapon system(s) planned for evaluation.

2. Purpose. Briefly state:

a. The purpose, program authority and objective for the planned IRE tests.

b. Short resume of planned test.

c. Special conditions needed for the test, such as geographic area, geometry of test, build-up space and facilities, weapon/equipment transfers, if applicable, load out and mine planting, locating, ranging and recovery scenarios, etc.

d. When the Test Plan will be available.

3. Requirements

a. Brief statement of support requirements. State specific ship or aircraft type where only one type will meet the requirements. State performance requirement where applicable. If a specific ship class or aircraft type is required, state why. Specify any non-fleet support requirements (such as range facilities). Specify what alternative types are acceptable, if any.

(1) State the number of calendar days on which support is required.

(2) State hours per day. If more than one period is required specify hours per period, periods per day, and minimum time between periods.

(3) Location. Be as general as possible, or specific if required. State what alternate locations are acceptable.

(4) Level of support (not to interfere basis, concurrent or dedicated).

(5) Dates. List preferred, begin not-sooner-than, and complete not-later-than dates. If specific dates are required, state why.

Enclosure (1)

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b. List additional requirements in same format. This would include special purpose test equipment/instrumentation to be placed on board a support unit.

4. Personnel

a. State unique training/qualification requirements, if applicable, for fleet units.

b. Indicate number and type of non-fleet personnel to embark in fleet units.

5. Classification and Security

a. Specify security measures (physical, operational) such as range precautions, information not releasable to foreign nationals, etc.

b. Specify classification level applicable to the capabilities and performance of the Mk-Mod mine weapon system being tested.

c. Identify CNO Classification Guide for Mine Warfare Program of interest.

6. Point of Contact. (Name, code, phone, AUTOVON).

a. COMINELWARCOM.

b. COMNAVSEASYSOM.

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TEST PLAN FORMAT

1. In-Water Reliability Evaluations will be conducted only through use of an approved Test Plan.
2. The Test Plan to be developed by COMNAVSEASYSKOM will contain the following information:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Authority
 - c. Objective
 - d. Scenario
 - e. Participants and their Responsibilities
 - f. Coordination Responsibilities
 - g. Special Instructions
 - h. Security
3. Because considerable planning is required for fleet support services, late requests may be denied and should be avoided unless exceptional operational justification can be made.

Enclosure (2)